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Derby celebration this Saturday

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

Saturday's running of the 129th Kentucky Derby will last about two minutes, but the Governor's Derby Day Celebration will last most of the day in downtown Frankfort.

From 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., the free activities will center around the Old State Capitol on Broadway. A continental breakfast will be served beginning at 8. Visitors can enjoy exhibitions of state tourism attractions, crafts for sale by Kentucky artisans and entertainment, including bluegrass, old time string music, African-American gospel and Mexican Cumbia music.

Buses will transport visitors to and from the Governor's Mansion, where the annual exhibition of juried Derby art will be displayed from 8 a.m. until noon.

At the Kentucky History Center, the Historical Society Museum Theater players will perform five free mini-plays about Kentucky's past. The plays will be staged every half hour between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Keeneland Gallery.

In the Old Train Depot parking lot, Department for Fish and Wildlife staff will answer questions about the snakes, birds and native plants they'll display.

Children are part of the fun, too.

Kids can ride tricycles at Safety City, visit the Peeps fun bus, have their faces painted or talk to performers portraying young Kentuckians like Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

And at the Kentucky Folklife tent on the Old Capitol grounds, children can make Derby hats from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 1, they'll be invited to march to the entertainment stage in a Derby parade.

Look for more information about the Derby celebration online at <http://gov.state.ky.us/derby/2003/derby2003.htm>

EAL Bright Idea of the Week



By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

While most Cabinet staff have completed the Everyone a Leader skill-building sessions, we could all use small reminders of the lessons we studied. The "EAL Bright Idea of the Week" features tips that can help us improve our relationships with coworkers and our service to families.

Recognize or reward good work when you see it. Praise – from coworkers or supervisors – means a lot to employees who have pitched in to solve a problem or dedicated themselves to a project. Send an e-mail with your positive comments, or set aside some time in staff meetings to salute accomplishments. Tell the people who quietly get things done every day how much you appreciate them. Sometimes a "thank you" is the most positive message we can send. Recognition has proven to be a big boost for Comprehensive Family Services families struggling to meet their goals.



Colorful rose petals are scattered around the Japanese Snowbell tree planted outside the CHR building in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Tree dedicated to child protection efforts

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

The Cabinet has dedicated a tree in celebration of staff's child protection efforts and in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

About 75 staff attended the tree dedication ceremony Tuesday morning, which was held inside because of rain.

The planting was sponsored by Quality Central Connections (QCC). Finance Facilities staff ordered and planted the tree, a 7-foot Japanese Snowbell, outside the cafeteria and near the patio.

At the ceremony, QCC member Bobbie Walters thanked Finance staff Tim Depenbrock, Roy Dobbins, Skip Hayes and Garth Vinson for their work.

Rashmi Adi-Brown, director of programs and prevention services at Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAK), said that in 2002, more than 90,000 children were reported abused or neglected in Kentucky.

"PCAK's mission is to prevent abuse and neglect," she said. "By each of you being here today in the dedication of this tree, you are saying that you want to be a part of our mission."

Adi-Brown said eliminating child abuse and neglect "may seem like a stretch, but I truly believe that if what we do here today brings awareness to an issue that can prevent one child from being abused, then you have helped our agency come one step closer to making Kentucky a safer place for our kids to live."

Department for Community Based Services Commissioner Dietra Paris said, "I cannot imagine a better way to blend our past, present and future efforts in our mission of protecting our children and families than planting a tree that will be with us for many, many years to come."

Paris said she would enjoy watching the tree grow and blossom, as it will every year in late May and June.

"We know how difficult the job is that we do, how we approach it, how every situation is unique. It is such a wonderful way to celebrate what we do to have something of lasting beauty," she said.

In celebration of children, Secretary Viola Miller shared her own story about a tree.

"A part of what families do, and what many of our children miss is that process of claiming children," she said. "And claiming goes on in families in large measure around those stories that become part of a family's history. The child, till the day they die, claims to hate those stories, and my son hates this one."

When her now 25-year-old son was 4, his passion was digging in the yard and burying things. Miller and her husband set parameters in the yard for his excavations.

"One day he was out doing his favorite thing, digging, and he had something that needed burying," she said. "And he hit a tree root – probably a Japanese Snowbell."

He retrieved his hatchet to break through the root, Miller said. "And water squirts 16 feet into the sky.

"He comes over, hyperventilating. And there are two choices, you can kill them or you can laugh."

Miller said she found the situation hysterical and couldn't stop laughing.

Her son looked at her and said, "I want my Daddy."

Miller phoned her husband to call him home from a nearby store. When he arrived, he joined Miller in the laughter.

"My son says, 'Don't you laugh at me,' " she said.

"My husband looks at him and says, 'You are so lucky that your parents are laughing.' "

Miller said she was proud that employees did something as a Cabinet family to celebrate the protection of children.

"The idea of planting a tree both in recognition of the work that you do every day and in celebration of the children in this state who are healthy and whole and well because of the work that you do every day in your lives" is just right, Miller said.

The plaque for the tree's marker reads, "Cabinet for Families and Children. Dedicated to protecting Kentucky's children. April 2003." The marker will be placed later this spring.



Secretary Viola Miller displays the plaque that will be mounted on concrete and placed by the tree. The plaque reads, "Cabinet for Families and Children. Dedicated to protecting Kentucky's children. April 2003."



Items missing from March of Dimes sale

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

To raise money for the March of Dimes campaign, the Cabinet's committee partnered with a contract seller of Home Interiors products. Coordinator Michele Lilly stored the items in an extra cubicle in the Administrative Hearings Office. The sales were successful, with one exception.

Some Home Interiors items stored in an extra office were missing last month. Lilly did a complete inventory of the collection to make sure her paperwork wasn't incorrect and still couldn't find the items.

Since the March of Dimes fund-raising team is a customer of an independent Home Interiors salesperson, the \$152 total cost of the products had to come from the campaign fund.

Lilly said she's disappointed that someone who works in the building might have taken the items. "What's worse is that our fund to help prevent prematurity was reduced to pay for these items," she said.

Results to be announced next week

Lilly still considers the 2003 fund-raising campaign a success. She and her committee thank all staff who contributed -- through walking, pledging or purchasing sale items.

"Our Cabinet has consistently come forward to help babies during this campaign," Lilly said. "Every contribution will make a difference."

Results from this year's campaign will be announced next week.



Barrickman's hat featured six toy horses and a jockey bobblehead doll in the center.

DDS employee wins Derby hat contest

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

Department for Disability Services scheduler Brenda Barrickman has won first place in a Kentucky Derby hat contest at Churchill Downs.

On April 26, the track's opening day, Barrickman won the \$500 prize in the handcrafted category for hats. It was her fourth year entering and the third time she's won a prize. Last year she took third place, and in 2001 she also came in first.

Barrickman's hat was really two hats sewn together with denim underneath to match her outfit. The hat featured six jockeys on horses and a Kentucky Derby jockey bobblehead doll in the center. Barrickman added red ribbon roses and a fence she fashioned by painting and gluing together plastic straws and wooden sticks.

For the contest, Barrickman also designed and sewed the ensemble she wore -- a denim skirt and vest with ultrasuede horses and jockeys racing around a track. Barrickman said she stitched the outfit in two days, but it took almost three weeks to design and cut the costume's every piece -- from the jockeys' hats to the numbers on their jerseys. Even the vest's buttons and the jewelry Barrickman wore when she modeled for judges were horse-themed.

Barrickman spent so much time embellishing her entry because "I love hats. I wear all kinds of all shapes and sizes." She especially loves older hats and hunts for them at flea markets and consignment stores.

A seamstress, Barrickman didn't create an outfit to match her hat the first year she entered the contest. That was the only time she entered that she hasn't won a prize. "The winner had a really pretty hat and costume -- everything matched, so then I knew that was what the judges were looking for," she said.

Talent runs in Barrickman's family. Her mother created a jockey's uniform for Barrickman's grandson. That hat and costume took second place in the children's category and won \$250.

Barrickman said she already has an idea for next year's contest.

"It combines my love of vintage hats and the things that the judges are looking for -- lots of horses," she said.

Barrickman, who works in DDS's Medical Services Branch, has been sewing since she was 15. She has made costumes for her and her husband's country-western dance performances and has created several hats for members of her church.

Even before she retires from state government, Barrickman would like to turn her hobby into more of a business.

"Someday I hope to start a Web site to sell hats," she said.

New users must register to post a comment or question.

Registering is easy, just submit your username, e-mail address and a password. Anyone can log on the site without registering to read comments.

Brenda Barrickman of DDS models her prize-winning ensemble.

Barrickman won a first-place prize of \$500 at Churchill Downs' hat decorating contest.



CFS Forum chats scheduled

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

Almost 240 users are registered on the CFS Forum, and all other staff and Cabinet partners are invited to join them for future discussions about Comprehensive Family Services.

The schedule is set for upcoming forum chats. The Monday discussions always begin at 2 p.m. Eastern time. Here are the dates and topics:

May 12 – CFS helping older

Kentuckians. May is Older Americans Month. Across the state and the country, providers are doing more to recognize the needs of senior citizens. How does CFS keep seniors from being the Cabinet for Families and Children's "forgotten" clients? With the Baby Boomers reaching retirement, are there enough CFS partners to take care of their needs?

June 16 – CFS and nontraditional

families. It's the season when many families celebrate their fathers and mothers. Single parents, grandparents and even friends have taken responsibility of caring for children. How does CFS help nontraditional families? Are there legal/guardianship issues that become problems, and how can we alleviate them? How has Kinship Care given new opportunities to kids?

July 21 – Family team meetings. Are most CFC staff/CFS partners comfortable with family team meetings by now? What makes a meeting successful? U of L researchers Dana Christensen and Becky Antle have found that caseworkers who used the Family Solutions model engaged families at a significantly higher degree. Does this work for families in all regions? What other resources are helpful?

Aug. 18 – CFS and FRYSCs, the school systems. As students prepare to go back to school for another year, CFS partners are gearing up too. How has the relationship between CFC and FRYSCs staff or school system staff changed

since CFS? How are referrals handled from FRYSCs?

Sept. 15 – Families in crisis. Many families don't learn about CFS until they have nowhere else to turn. What different steps do we take to help them alleviate their crises? Can this type of case be managed like a "regular" CFS case? What are the keys to helping these families become more stable after the immediate danger is gone?

Bookmark the forum site -- <http://cfc.state.ky.us/cfsforum/> -- and share it with your coworkers and community partners.

National Volunteers Week

By Natalie Ciresi, CFC Communications

National Volunteers Week was proclaimed for April 27-May 3, 2003 by Governor Paul Patton.

Sunday, April 27, was proclaimed Newport Aquarium Volunteers' Day, and the aquarium's executive director was made a Kentucky colonel.

On April 28, the Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) of the Brighton Center, also in Newport, had it's volunteers' recognition day. The Brighton Center Quilters, some of whom are part of RSVP, made 700 coasters for the International Association of Volunteer Administration Conference in Cincinnati. Each coaster is like a quilt, true to Kentucky.

"It is simply incredible what volunteers do," said Eileen Cackowski, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS). "And they are people like you and me."

The KCCVS has been an arm of support for the volunteer services around the state throughout this week. They have been working on certificates and citations signed by Secretary Miller and Governor Patton for individual volunteer groups to present to their volunteers.

"We shouldn't think about what volunteers do only this week, we should think about them all year long," Cackowski said.

Employee appreciation picnic is May 15

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

Quality Central Connections(QCC) is sponsoring an employee appreciation picnic for Cabinet staff from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, at the Lakeview Park pavilion.

The park is at Georgetown Road (U.S. 460) and Steadmantown Lane.

State employees and other public servants are nationally recognized with their own "appreciation week" in early May, but the state's recognition activities are planned for October because of the Kentucky Derby.

QCC planned the picnic to boost team cohesiveness and as a "thank you" for all Quality Central staff.

Staff are invited to spend their lunch hour, plus an extra hour for team enrichment, at the event.

QCC will provide soft drinks and cake for dessert, but staff must bring their own lunches. Some offices may decide to plan a potluck lunch.

The event will offer several activities, like free bingo, golf putting and karaoke provided by the Governor's Office of Technology's Larry Doyle. Other possible activities are basketball and a three-legged race.

Mark your calendars for the picnic!

QCC needs
ice, coolers



QCC will need ice and several coolers to keep drinks cool for the picnic. If you have access to ice or can loan your cooler to the group for the May 15 event, please contact Bobbie Walters.